

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC)
IN THE SENATE ON REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET,
MAY 28, 1957.

MR. PRESIDENT, during the past several months, I have been deeply concerned about the status of the proposed budget.

First of all, I believe that the budget is too high and should be reduced.

Secondly, I am concerned about whether we are making real reductions in spending when we cut the budget proposed for 1958.

Some of the questions which have arisen in my mind are summarized in an article published in the May 31, 1957, issue of U. S. News and World Report, one of the most distinguished and authoritative magazines published.

This article contains a table showing

that in each of the past 10 years, the first appropriation approved by the Congress for a budget year has been increased later. The largest of these supplemental increases to the first appropriation approved by the Congress came in 1951, during the Korean War, and amounted to \$7.6 billion. This brought the total spending for that year to \$83.6 billion instead of the \$76 billion first approved.

The smallest increase in spending over the first appropriation approved by the Congress during the past 10 years was in 1955. Congress first appropriated \$56.2 billion and then added \$900 million later.

Mr. President, the matter of appropriations is very complicated and it is especially complicated for those of us who are not members of the Appropriations Committee

I believe the people of this country should be accurately informed as to what we have really done when we say we have cut the budget. If that means we have succeeded in reducing the budget for this year while, at the same time, approving future spending which must be provided for later, this should be made clear.

I am today writing a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee to request him to see if it is possible to have the status of appropriations already made by the House and Senate clarified at this point. Also, I am requesting whether it might be possible in the future to have the Committee staff provide additional helpful information.

What I would like to know is whether the budget reductions made by the House and

Senate in the appropriation bills considered by each house will have to be restored later in supplemental appropriation bills or in the appropriation bills of future years. I would like to know whether there are appropriations fixed by laws enacted in prior years which we have failed to provide for in the appropriation bills already approved by the Senate this year.

If the House or the Senate has failed to provide funds which will be necessary to meet expenditures under the provisions of law, then we should do so now instead of in a supplementary bill later.

I hope it will be possible for the Appropriations Committee to provide such information on bills already approved and also to include a brief summary with each bill reported in the future to show whether

all reductions made in the budget requests can be maintained or whether statutory or other requirements will necessitate supplemental appropriations.

Mr. President, the Senate has already passed this year S. 1595, a bill introduced by the distinguished ~~Senior~~ Senator from *Arkansas* ~~which~~ which would establish a Joint Committee on the Budget. If the House will approve this measure, which 71 members of the Senate joined in co-sponsoring, I believe that many of the difficulties which concern me about the budget can be eliminated.

Also, there is pending in the Government Operations Committee, S. 434, a bill introduced by the distinguished Junior Senator from Massachusetts and which I co-sponsored with a number of others. This bill would "provide for improved methods of

stating budget estimates and estimates for deficiency and supplemental appropriations."

The enactment of this bill, which has been favorably reported by the Reorganization Subcommittee to the full Government Operations Committee, would require the presentation of an accurate report of federal spending each year. The report would have to include carry-over funds as well as current appropriations.

If it is possible for the Appropriations Committee to provide the Senate with the information I am requesting, and if S. 1595 and S. 434 are both enacted or if either is enacted, I believe we shall have made a start toward vastly improved budget practices. I hope we shall do so.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the body of the

Record the article to which I referred in
U. S. News and World Report.

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